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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 338. NOVEMBER, 1934.

GRACIOUSNESS. LOVE. UNDERSTANDING.

"Love taketh not account of evil."—I. COR. XVII. 5.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Anniversary Service of York Street Congregation on September 23rd in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, was most impressive. Half an hour before the service every available seat, and every inch of standing room in the doorway of vestibule and corridors, was taken up. That such a service is possible would scarcely be believed among the congregations in Great Britain, and yet during the present month, under the auspices of the Laymen's League and the Synod, another audience filling the great hall to its utmost capacity is expected. The Rev. Lawrence Redfern, M.A., B.D., who for the last sixteen years has been minister of the exceedingly fine church at Ullet Road, Liverpool, in which city his name is outstanding, will be the preacher. After the Synod lecture and the address at the reception this year no further commendation is necessary. If one congregation can do so well it is now for the united congregations to show that they can do as equally well, if not one better.

* * *

THIS is the season of Harvest Thanksgiving Services, and perhaps without exception every Meeting House will have been crowded. That it is possible for such a thing to be, even once a year, is a hopeful and encouraging fact. Our aim is not the substitution of one "ism" for another "ism," but in the words of the Apostle "to be saved from the bondage of fear," to quicken intelligence, and to win to the freedom that is happiness.

* * *

THE old Presbyterian fashion of the May and November communions is still retained in many of our congregations, and in others, a few Sundays before or after may mark the date. The Fast Day service is useful for instruction as to the meaning of the Sacrament, and a Young Communicants' Class is very helpful, and from such classes often spring those who are the Heart of the congregation.

* * *

WE understand that the attention of the Cecil family having been drawn to the Liverpool Cathedral, they have donated two quarries of red sand-stone for the building. If this is the outcome of the recent controversy, then the circumstance has been very fortunate for the Cathedral.

* * *

AN International Congress of lawyers is to be held in November, at the Papal Institute in Rome. This is the seventh century of the promulgation of Heresy Laws by Pope Gregory IX., which meant the setting up of the Inquisition. It is also the fourteenth century of the codification of Roman Law by the Emperor Justinian, laying the foundation of the legal systems of every European country except England.

* * *

IF an Episcopalian told us that a congregation was the most arrogant, conceited and aggressive set of people in the town, we would naturally resent it. What are we to think of the arrogance of an Episcopate which gratuitously pronounces Unitarians as outside the Christian communion, basing such judgment

SUBSIDY FUND.

Contributions should be addressed to the Manager, Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

on the statement that Unitarians do not baptise "in the Name of the Holy Trinity," a formula which Episcopalians themselves do not use; but instead use precisely the same formula as that contained in *The Child's Guide to Christ*, viz., Ques. 32—"What does Christ direct concerning Baptism? He commands all nations to be baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. (Matt. xxviii. 19, Acts ii. 41)!" See also *Christian Catechism*, Ques. 51. These books can be obtained at the Depository of the Ulster Unitarian Christian Association.

* * *

WE beg to call the attention of our readers to the advertisements of the Lindsey Press and the Book Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, and strongly recommend the books and pamphlets named as well worth reading, especially by friends who have attended the big meetings in the Ulster Hall, and who must be more or less interested in Unitarianism and Liberal Christianity. Visits to the Depository, without any implication as to buying, are welcomed, and enquirers are asked to help themselves to the pamphlets on the table.

THE ULSTER HALL MEETING.

The Ulster Hall Meeting to which reference is made in "Notes and News," will be held on Sunday, November 18th, 1934, when the Rev. Lawrence Redfern, M.A., B.D., will be the preacher. Mr. Redfern's qualifications are given as Ed. H.M.C. and Vict. Univ., 1907-13; Harvard Univ, 1913-14; Gaskell Scholar, 1908-9; Durning-Smith Scholar, 1909-10; Tate Scholar, 1911-13; Hibbert Scholar, 1913-14. For further particulars relating to the meeting please see posters. Arrangements will be made as usual for accommodation of visitors at the Central Hall and York Street before and after the service. It is anticipated that this year the congregation will be even larger than that of previous years, and it is hoped that every one of our congregations in Ireland will be represented. The meeting is under the auspices of the Unitarian and Free Christian Laymen's League and the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. The Moderator will preside. Service begins at 7 p.m.

"Truth is the understanding of the essential worth of all things."—*K.*

TEMPERANCE CONFERENCE.

A most important meeting of the Committee on Temperance was held on October 16th at which the programme for the coming winter received careful consideration. The campaign of the brewers and manufacturers of strong drink to capture the young people of the land has made the problem urgent, and every effort must be put forth to educate our boys and girls so that they may be safeguarded. Scientific investigation into the nature and effects of alcohol has greatly strengthened the position of the Temperance advocate, but the advertisements in the newspapers, and especially on the hoardings, are undoing in the minds of the people the work of the scientists and instilling false and dangerous ideas into the rising generation. It is most necessary that full advantage should be taken of the newer knowledge and no opportunity neglected to prevent the return of the drinking habits which were common in all grades of society in the last generation. The cocktail habit has already gained a strong hold in fashionable circles; and an increase in the consumption of beer as a result of the lowering of duty and of price is a sign of the spirit of the times which ought not to be overlooked. It is right and proper that the Non-Subscribing Churches should take a leading part in pointing out the danger and warning the people to be on their guard against it.

And so it has been decided by the Temperance Committee that a Conference shall be held in the Central Hall, Belfast, on the evening of Thursday, November 29th, at 8 o'clock, and that all our ministers shall be requested to call the special attention of their congregations to this meeting, and to invite their attendance. The addresses will be given by experienced workers, and an opportunity for questions and discussion will be provided. The cup that cheers at the end will permit conversation, and it is hoped many friends from near and far will be present to renew old acquaintanceship and to encourage each other in the good work.

TEMPERANCE SUNDAY.

The Committee asks that Sunday, January 20th, 1935, be observed by all our congregations as Temperance Sunday and that sermons dealing with the subject, or at least special references to it, shall be made from each pulpit. It is also requested that addresses shall be given in all our Sunday Schools, and that teachers shall make Temperance the subject of their lessons on that day.

ESSAYS.

It is intended to insert in the *Non-Subscribing Presbyterian* at an early date a Temperance Lesson for the boys and girls amongst us. Essays of at least five hundred words will be invited, and prizes will be offered for the best. We have a number of bright, intelligent children, and this will give them an opportunity of directing their studies in a way which will prove not only interesting, but will enable them to give a reason for the Temperance faith that is in them.

J. JOSEPH MAGILL, *Convener.*

OBITUARIES.

Mr. Thomas McMullan, Glenarm.

It is with sorrow we have to record the death of Mr. Thomas McMullan, which occurred after a few hours' illness on 23rd September. He had been connected with our church since childhood, and was the oldest member of our church committee. He was a loyal and devoted adherent of our faith and always held the interests of the Old Meeting House very close to his heart. He was a man of exceptional warmness of heart, of generous sympathies, and was greatly beloved by all who knew him. The crowded congregation at the funeral service was a tribute to the respect and affection in which he was held not only by the town in which he had resided for many years, but by the country side for many miles. The service at the house and at the church and graveside was taken by the minister. Our sympathy and prayers go out for his widow and family that they may be upheld in their great affliction.

Miss Annie Reid.

With profound regret we record the death of Miss Annie Reid who, for over forty years, has been closely connected with All Souls' Congregation, Belfast. Her regular attendance at public worship, not maintained without much personal inconvenience, and her practical support of the Church, often entailing actual sacrifice, made her a shining example of Christian Faithfulness that most of us would do well to keep in mind. And when we add to this her fortitude and cheerfulness in the face of extreme suffering, both of body and mind, we are compelled to bow our heads in reverence at the passing of this truly noble soul.

Thomas Wilson, Ballydorn, Killinchy.

We desire to record the death of Thomas Wilson of Ballydorn, Killinchy, who died on October 4th, 1934, in his 79th year. He was all his life a faithful and constant worshipper of the Killinchy Meeting House until a comparatively short period when his health began to fail, Mr. Wilson was highly respected by a large circle of acquaintances, who honoured him for his social qualities, his integrity, and mourn him for his genial neighbourliness. His co-worshippers regarded him, his wife, and son for many years as faithful upholders of the principles our Meeting House stands for. Their fellow-worshippers sympathise greatly with Mrs. Wilson and his son (Mr. Wilson was twice married—of his first wife were born to him a daughter, Mrs. Finlay, and a son) who mourn his loss. The funeral took place on Saturday, October 6th, to Killinchy Church-yard, the Rev. D. J. Williams officiating on the occasion.

Robert Hogg, Carricknab.

It is with deep regret that Clough Church records the passing of one of its old and respected members in his 80th year. Mr. Hogg was for many years a member of the Church Committee and a most faithful worshipper on the Sabbath Day until the infirmities of age kept him confined to the farm. His interest in the Church, however, was maintained to the end. He was highly respected in the neighbourhood throughout his long life, and a very large company of farmers and neighbours assembled at the family grave in the ancient churchyard of Rathmullan to pay their last token of respect to a good neighbour—Rev. J. Shaw Brown officiating. The Church would tender its sympathy to the members of the family at home and abroad in their bereavement.

THE DIVINE WISDOM.

The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.—James iii., 17.

Published on the **Fourth** Saturday of the month. Copy should be in before the **17th** at the latest. Editor: Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

REVIEWS.

Psychology and Morals—by J. A. Hadfield, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., Lecturer on Psychology, King's College, London. Tenth Edition, 1934. Methuen and Co. Ltd.—6/-.

People are apt to say of the healing of paralytics in the New Testament, that it was miracle, yet according to this book, cures quite as wonderful are effected by medical science of to-day. The book opens with a description of a "shell-shock" hospital, where "there are men paralysed, blind, deaf, dumb, and suffering from severe headaches and other pains." In another ward one may find men to be suffering from what appear to be exactly the same symptoms. In the first case however the root of the trouble is in the mind, "psychogenic" disorders, in the second they are "physical in origin, due to some defect of bodily structure." It is with the first class, "psychogenic," the author deals, and uses this as a starting point for his introduction. To many it would be incredible that a soldier's paralysis of the leg should be cured, not by doing anything to the leg itself, but by getting rid of a complex, something in the mind. From that the author goes on to deal with moral diseases, and thus opens up the science of psychology in its application to all manner of ailments of body and soul. The book has to be read carefully to note the precise meaning attached to terms such as "sentiments" and "complexes." A diagram is presented, resembling the sun and its planets. The "sun" may be "our country," or philanthropy, religion, school or anything else. If it is "our country" then round it are planets which are round every similar centre, fear, parental, pugnacity, assertion, submission. That constellation makes a "sentiment." "The *sentiments* are those constellations which we consciously accept; the *dispositions* those which are unconsciously accepted; and the *complexes*, those which are rejected as unacceptable, and tend to be repressed." Having got this item clear we can go on to deal with "complexes" which have been "repressed," pushed down out of our consciousness, but remain to be a source of trouble, all sorts of diseases springing from them. "In judging others we trumpet abroad our secret faults." "Paul breathed out threatening and slaughter against the Christians probably became he was three parts a Christian."

The law of sympathy—These are those who . . . have blamed Christianity for maudlin sentimentality . . . . . We should quietly do away with the clergy at fifty-five years of age, drown university professors at sixty, and hang lawyers, say at forty!"

"It is an extraordinary fact that, although, I have analysed a large number of clergymen in whom the instincts of self-display or self-importance, and sometimes self-righteousness have played so large a part, in no case has any one of them ultimately felt it necessary to abandon his calling, but they have returned with fuller, stronger life to use and enjoy this instinct in the service of their work. It is the preacher or lecturer without self-display who is hopelessly dull. It required more than a little of this instinct to make some theological truths attractive. There are some who pour scorn on those who speak "for effect," yet what other object has a public speaker in view? Oratory is effective talking."

Know Thyself: Accept Thyself: Be Thyself.

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland and Unitarian and Free Christian Laymen's League.

A GREAT UNITED SERVICE

WILL BE HELD IN

ULSTER HALL, BELFAST,

ON

SUNDAY, 18th NOVEMBER, 1934

At 7 o'clock.

Preacher: Rev. L. REDFERN, M.A., B.D.,

OF LIVERPOOL

(The Unitarian Preacher in Liverpool Cathedral Controversy).

The Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church (Rev. J. D. DAVIES) will preside.

Doors open at 6-30. ALL FRIENDS WELCOME.

We see the law of completeness operating in physiology, in psychology, in morality, and in religion. In physiology we call this completeness "health", in morality "perfection," in religion "holiness", in psychology we shall call it "self-realization".—*J. A. Hadfield.*

"SHALL I GO TO CHURCH TO-DAY?"

JOHN MCCLEERY, B.A., S.T.M.

The church that allows its people to drift into the temper in which they greet Sunday worship services with the question "Shall I go to church to-day?" is failing culturally in its presentation of religion. The modern world being what it is, I think there is no other transaction which serves the individual in binding his days to each other as the offices of a church. A church can give every man, religious or irreligious, an assurance of the inviolate integrity of his life and its uninterrupted continuity whatever the strange vicissitude. It is perfectly true that a noble service of worship has an extraordinary power to simplify and unify life. This is a truth also which gives permanent cultural worth to the relation of a church to the private religious life of individuals. Individuals who have their lives so simplified and unified by the service of the church will always support the institution and never ask: "Shall I go to church to-day?" The church in return for their support, supports them at the point where reassurance is constantly necessary for that unity of life which is one of the constant aims of all religion.

REV. JOHN MCCLEERY, B.A., S.T.M.

Now this theory is not incompatible with those changes of faith and practice which are required in a world where more light is constantly breaking upon men. In the modern world, as well as in the other worlds, old and new forces conspire to disintegrate people's lives, and people need and will respond to the human ways of realizing religion which bind their days each to each, whether within the limits of a single life or in a succession of generations. The church which does this rids itself of the dilemma which older churches created for themselves in the contradiction of a primitive faith which in theory is final and sufficient, but yet requires in practice constant re-interpretation.

The Roman Church comes nearest to a working solution of this contradiction in terms, and yet the solution is the least logical and most ambigious. Fundamentalist Protestant churches are more logical in affirming the sufficiency of the Bible, to the detriment of any interpreter. The Quaker is more candid in subjecting his Bible to the witness of the Inner Light. Yet one is bound too much to the past and the other is apt to neglect the past. Religion is neither immedacy nor archaeology. It must in some way be a compound of the two.

Mere union will not give a theory upon which a church may be built. Contracts of moral self-interest as a present social expedient do not suffice. The contract of generations must be noticed. That contract is one of an interlocked succession of lives, in which there is actual increment of truth and not just clever restatement of old truth. That contract is one between men of each of whom in his own time, lived his own life freely and yet recognized between the generations a continuity and coherence of experience which may not be denied and which makes the process one, whatever the turnings. Such a church can be a witness of how things come to be as they are in the world, not just a mere chronicle, but as an intimation of the communal life of the spirit of religion in which there has constantly been an access of truth; and not mere "interpretation" of a final revelation. Such a church is culturally credible and religiously serviceable to all sorts and conditions of men.

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REPORTS.

Women's League.

The British League of Unitarian and other Free Christian Women (Ulster District) held their quarterly service and meeting on Oct. 2 in the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, Holywood. The devotional service was conducted by Mrs. Mayes, of Lisburn, and Miss J. M'Ninch, Larne, presided at the organ. About 100 members partook of tea in the schoolroom, and afterwards a visit was paid to the studio of Miss Praegar, an event which had been keenly anticipated, and was greatly appreciated.

Ballyhemlin.

The Centenary and Harvest Thanksgiving were celebrated on Sunday afternoon, October 7th, the preacher being the Rev. John Barron. Miss McMaster, Ballyhalbert, was the organist, and the singing went heartily, aided by an augmented choir. Friends were present from Moneyrea and Greyabbey, and a large number of local friends were present in an overflowing congregation. The decorations showed skilful and painstaking care and among the workers were Miss Kitty Anderson, Mrs. Smith, Misses Hazel Brown, M. Fullerton, M. O'Neill, Sadie Brown, and M. Gilmore. The text was "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness." Reference was made to the record of the opening of the Meeting House by Rev. Wm. Glendy of Ballycarry, on August 3rd, 1834. Two days prior, the liberation took place of slaves throughout the British Dominions. A little over a hundred years ago there was a controversy in Ireland. The old General Synod of Ulster in its constitution, allowed young men, who were being ordained, to subscribe or not to subscribe, that is, to write their names to the Standards of Faith, as they were called, the Westminster Confession of Faith, etc., with the result that there were a great many who had not so subscribed; but, may have just given a declaration of their beliefs. However, there were those who thought it necessary, that every Presbyterian minister should subscribe; there were also those who would not subscribe, but remained staunch to the constitution of the old General Synod of Ulster, which gave them all the liberty they needed, and in order to preserve that, they stood out as Non-Subscribing Presbyterians, under the name of the Remonstrant Synod of Ulster, and under its auspices the Ballyhemlin Meeting House was built. "Except the Lord build the house, their labour is but lost that buildit." The collection amounted to Seven Pounds Ten Shillings.

Killinchy.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held here on Sunday, September 30th, morning and evening, and on Monday night at 7-30. On the Sunday the Rev. S. P. Whitehouse, B.A., All Souls' Church, Belfast, was the preacher, who during the previous Sunday suffered from a gastric attack, was sufficiently well to be here on this day. His services, morning and evening, were highly appreciated by exceptionally large congregations. On Monday night we had the Rev. J. Glynne Davies of Comber, whose neighbourly services are well-known and acceptable here, to conduct the Service and to preach according to his usual efficiency. This concluded our Harvest Thanksgiving Services which were well-attended throughout. The wet weather on Sunday morning soon gave way to more congenial weather. The Church was decorated by the products of the Season of all descriptions, the quantity of magnificant flowers were greatly admired. Harvest Hymns were sung throughout and an Anthem was rendered by an augmented choir. Our organist, Miss I. Russell, presided at the organ.

Ballycarry.

The Annual Party arranged by the Ballycarry Branch of the British Women's League was held on Thursday September 29th. The principal item in the evening's programme was the balloting of the Autograph Quilt which was initiated by Mrs Wm. Millar and who was successful by this means of raising the sum of nearly £40 0s 0d towards the redocoration of the Church fabric. The Quilt was won by Mrs. Jackson of Belfast. A most enjoyable evening was spent. Among those contributing to the programme were the Misses Wilson the Misses Pearl and Rosemary Moore, Miss Magowan acting as accompanist. Games and Guessing Competitions were also indulged in. Prizes were given by Mrs. W. Millar, Mrs. James Paisley, Miss Anderson, Mrs. John McKee, Mrs. McMaster, Miss Service and others. The catering was efficiently carried out by Mrs. John McKee.

During the evening the minister, Mr. Marsden, called and for a few minutes spoke in terms of high appreciation of the useful work done by the League on behalf of the Church.

All Souls' Belfast

The Annual Sale of Work organised by the local branch of the Women's League will be held in Rosemary Hall, Elmwood Avenue, Belfast, on Friday, 16th November, and will be opened at 3 o'clock by Miss McKelvey, Glastry House, Kircubbin. This year the Sale will be continued into the evening and it is sincerely to be hoped that the extension of hours will be justified by the results. Gifts and donations for the sale will be gladly received and acknowledged by either the President (Mrs. S. P. Whitehouse) or the Hon. Sec.. (Miss A. F. Montgomery) or may be addressed to Rosemary Hall.

Dr. Drummond on Sunday, 11th November, will conduct the Church Anniversary Services.

Mrs. Ewbank and the Rev. W. Eakin conducted the Services at All Souls' on Sunday, 23rd September, taking the place of the Minister who was indisposed. Our best thanks are due to them for coming at such short notice.

Greyabbey.

The committee and congregation have installed the electric light in the Manse.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services was held on Sunday evening, 14th October. There was a large attendance and the preacher, the Rev. Wm. Eakin (Belfast), delivered an impressive and eloquent sermon, his subject being "Fellow labourers together with God." Mr. W. J. Harvey (Holywood) efficiently presided at the organ. Very valuable helps was given to the choir by friends from the Holywood congregation. The music was much appreciated. The Soloists were Miss Shannon, Mr. Brown and Mr. James Shannon. The service was continued on Monday evening when Miss Pearl Brown presided at the organ and the Rev. W. H. Townley Tilson conducted the service.

Glenarm.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on September 30th and October 1st. The Church had been beautifully decorated by the ladies of the congregation. Special hymns were sung and an anthem giving at each service. There were large congregations. The preacher at the Sunday service was the minister and at Monday's service the moderater (the Rev. J. D. Davies) occupied the pulpit.

Downpatrick.

Downpatrick Presbyterian Non-Subscribing Church's harvest festival was largely attended on Sunday, particularly in the evening, and as usual there was a charming profusion of flowers, grain, fruit and vegetables. Miss Gertrude M'Murray in the morning sang beautifully 'How Lovely are Thy Dwellings' and in the evening 'Nearer my God to Thee.' An augmented choir, Miss Dickson presided at the organ, sang two anthems, besides the harvest hymns.

The preacher was Rev. W. Eakin, of Belfast. At the first service he spoke of how the sideral year, astronomy, botany, chemistry and architecture, as well as the rudiments of agriculture all came from Egypt; of the harvest not occurring by chance; of God being over all, in all, and through all; the blessings we received through the toil and suffering of others, and why we should seek to dedicate our powers to God and humanity.

In the evening, based on the text, II. Corinthians, vi., 6, the subject was that the creative work of God was constant and eternal, and that we were labourers together with Him. We had opportunities of service in the world, in school, in church, in the home, in statecraft and government. Visions born in the soul of man would become realities through labour, devotion and sacrifice; divine power, transforming and energising human weakness, led us to the new land wherein righteousness would be established.

Banbridge.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held here on the first Sunday in October. It was a lovely day, and there was a good attendance. The Church had been most tastefully decorated with Nature's products, and as usual the beautiful pulpit formed a piece de resistance. The Choir, augmented for the ocassion by friends who never fail us, rendered two of Caleb Simper's Anthems "He giveth food" and "The Lord is Good." Mrs. Helen Stevenson and Messrs Hugh Chambers and Kenneth Shooter sang the solo parts, and Mrs. Thompson very kindly officiated at the organ, resulting in a Service of Praise which was much appreciated. The special preacher was the Rev. J. Glynne Davies (of Comber), a former minister of our Church who preached two very thoughtful and approprate Sermons. Flowers were afterwards presented to the District Hospital. There was a very good offertory.

An interesting event of the month was the presentation of a dining room table and four chairs as a wedding gift to Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson. They were invited to an excellent

tea served by the ladies of the Congregation. Mrs. Godding made the presentation and appreciative addresses were given by several members and the bride and bridegroom responded with words of thanks and feeling. We are glad to learn that Mrs. Stevenson is staying on at the organ. A very warm welcome was given to Mr. Stevenson and we trust that he and his bride will be long spared to worship with us.

Mountpottinger.

The eleventh Session of our Branch of the Unitarian Women's League, opened on Monday, September 24th. Mrs. Ewbank conducted a Service in the Church, Miss Ashworth officiating at the organ. A Social gathering followed, the occasion being a very happy one. Mrs. Ewbank was presented with a Walnut Writing Bureau from the Mountpottinger League members and the ladies of the Congregation. All lady members of the Church were present with the exception of five from whom apologies were received.

Mrs. Ewbank was asked to accept the Desk as a token of the affection and high esteem in which she is held by all Members, and as an appreciation of the deep interest she has taken in the Church and School, and the splendid efforts she has made for their welfare. In acknowledging the gift Mrs. Ewbank said she found great pleasure in the work, and the happy associations of all the Church workers,

On Friday, September 28th, a very happy gathering of the Sunday School Scholars and their young friends met for a Social evening. These little events organised by Mrs. Ewbank are the scholars special efforts for building up Funds for the Sunday school stall at the Xmas Sale of Work.

On Monday the 9th October, the Annual Meeting of the Women's League was held, at which the Report of the year's work was given by the Secretary, and recorded an interesting review of the Branches' activities. Mrs. Harry McCullough's Treasurers' report for the year again showed the care and thought exercised with the finances of the Branch. All Officers and Committee were unanimously re-elected. K.F.

Harvest Services were held on Sunday, October 21st, Rev. J. Begg of Larne, whose sermons were much appreciated, being the preacher for the day.

The Church had been tastefully decorated by members of the Women's League and other helpers. The afternoon Service was largely musical in character and the Choir was augmented by members of the Holywood Church Choir under the leadership of Mr. W. Harvey. Mr. J. Shannon was the Soloist at this Service whilst in the evening Mrs. J. K. Murphy (Comber) acted in a like capacity, both being heard to advantage. Miss Peggy Shannon (Holywood), Mr. L. Watters and Mr. W. W. Wilson (Mountpottinger) also took solos in the Anthems which were well rendered. The members of the Women's League entertained the Choirs and friends to tea at the conclusion of the afternoon service. On November 18th the pulpit at the 11-30 a.m. Service will be occupied by Rev. Lawrence Redfern, M.A. B.D., who is visiting Belfast to preach the sermon at the United Service in the Ulster Hall which is arranged for the evening of that same day.

Belfast, First Church.

By courtesy of the Religious Advisory Board of the Belfast Station of the B.B.C. and owing to the fact that the building is wired for the broadcasting of Organ Recitals weekly by the organist, Mr. Albert Taylor, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., it was rendered possible to broadcast the ordinary evening service from the First Church on Sunday night September 30th, when the Rev. R. Nicol Cross, conducted the Devotions and preached the Sermon. We have also to thank the Rev. J. Glynne Davies, the representative of the Non-Subscribing Church of Ireland on the Board for this privilege. The Broadcast proved most satisfactory in every way, the choir and congregation putting their heart into the praise and there have been testimonies of appreciation and of good received from various quarters.

On Sunday, October 14th, Harvest Thanksgiving and Sunday School Anniversary were celebrated, including the usual united Scholars Service in the afternoon, which was conducted by Mrs. Davies of Comber who gave the children a very interesting address on the ancient origins of such celebrations. The evening congregation was especially large when there was a Musical Service at which Mr. Taylor and the choir, augmented by friends, gave a rendering of selections from Haydn's "Creation." With Miss Victoria Gordon, L.R.A.M. and Mr. Jas. Laird, there were Miss May Coburn and Mr. David Houston, recently appointed Soprano and Tenor Principals respectively at the First Church, and they acquitted themselves well. Altogether the Choir gave of their best to the Praise.

The usual Congregational Social at the

beginning of the winter took place in the Central Hall on October 16th, when a goodly number of members and friends gathered for what proved a very enjoyable time together, the Hall being considerably brightened for the occasion with flowers. An excellent tea had been prepared by Mrs. Boyd with the help of several ladies of the congregation. A social hour followed largely given up to a Guessing Competition arranged by Mr. W. H. McCafferty, which was a severe test of general intellegence out of which Mrs. Tate and Mr. H. J. F. Orr emerged victors. A musical programme of high standard, following upon a short speech by the minister, was arranged by Mr. Albert Taylor and sustained by the choir principals, and Miss Kirkwood, who gave delightful recitations. Miss Kennedy and Mr. Albert Taylor kindly acted as piano accompanists. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to all who contributed to the success of the evening, on the motion of Mr. R. McCrum seconded by Mr. R. Wilkinson.

Holywood.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on September 30th, and were conducted by the Rev. Thomas Munn of Cairncastle. The church was beautifully adorned for the festival, and an augumented choir, under the direction of Mr. W. J. Harvey (organist), rendered special music. In addition to preaching at the morning and evening services, Mr. Munn also addressed a special children's service in the church in the afternoon. There were good congregations and Mr. Munn's visit was much appreciated.

Templepatrick.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held in this Church on Sunday evening the 7th October. The Church was beautifully decorated with flowers and fruits and its appearance when the labour of love was completed amply repaid the young people of the congregation who had devoted much time and attention to the work. And we must not omit to say that on the evening of the Service the Church was decorated also with a large, appreciative and attentive congregation. The Rev. Dr. Agnew was the preacher and although not yet recovered from a long and trying illness he gave us a sermon which commanded the closest attention from beginning to end. He emphasised that God gave us more than plenty and that man must try to solve the problems of distribution. Mr. James F. Newel will long be remembered by us for his splended singing of "The Lord is my light" and "Let not your heart be troubled." Miss Getty played the organ. It was greatly gratifying to us that though ringed about with Harvest Services on the same evening our old tradition was in no wise impaired.

Ballyclare Branch Women's League.

In connection with the opening of the newly acquired Victoria Hall this branch held a Chrysanthemum Tea and Gift Sale on Saturday, October 13th.

The Rev. John Begg of Larne was introduced as Chairman by the resident minister, Rev. A. M. Bell, B.A., and he in turn called upon Mrs. E. R. Jackson, of Belfast, to declare the Hall open.

In a brief speech she complimented the workers upon the charming result obtained by the colour scheme of green and white, linked up by the china and table napery.

In rendering the Hall free of access to the Unitarians of Ballyclare and their supporters Mrs. Jackson expressed the hope that it might be a place where the open-hearted would give generous welcome to strangers, where the open-minded would allow other views to be expressed without prejudice, where the open-eyed would be watchful and vigilant to see that everyone was happy and comfortable, and where the open-hearted would find opportunity for beautifying and embellishing its furnishings and fabrics.

A bouquet of golden chrysanthemums was presented to the speaker by Miss Lily Moore, and a decorative sheaf of pink dahlias came from the helpers at the Cake and Provision stall. A comprehensive vote of thanks was moved by Mrs. Forsythe, President of the Branch, seconded by the Hon. Treas., Miss Hogarth. The Hon. Sec., Miss O'Neill, wishes, on behalf of the branch members, to thank all those who so willingly gave material and labour in erecting the Hall, all those whose generous gifts embellished it, the stall-holders who worked so hard to ensure success, the supporters from other branches, in particular Miss Armstrong, of First Church, Belfast, and her Gipsy Troupe. Also Mrs. Moore, organist of the Church, who sang with much acceptance during the afternoon.

Belfast Domestic Mission.

On Saturday evening, October 6th, about seventy members and friends met under the auspices of the social club. To inaugerate the season's activities, a programme of music and games followed by tea occupied the evening, which was enjoyed by all.

The Dramatic Society is now in operation with a good attendance of young people. A comedy has been selected for the first venture which has enlisted the enthusiasm of the members.

The opening meeting of the Debating Circle will be held Tuesday evening 23rd, when a good attendance is expected.

The Boys' Club has several new members this session. Among the new features this winter Mr. Gilliland will give the boys a course in physical culture.

The Table Tennis section has made a good beginning with a mumber of new players added to the roll. The prospect of prizes for competition later in the season has stimulated interest.

A number of our Sunday School pupils attended the United Scholars service in First Church on Sunday, 14th October.

The Harvest Festival included three services on Sunday, 21st October. At the afternoon and evening services every available seat was brought into use when the church was filled to capacity. Generous gifts of fruit, flowers and vegetables were contributed by friends in the city and outside districts. A band of willing helpers with the aid of these gifts transformed the church into a most artistic setting of attractiveness and beauty.

The special musical programmes were arranged by Miss F. Newman, A.T.C.L., and were carried through in a manner which greatly eariched the Services. Our Choir was assisted in the afternoon by Master Alex. McKee as soloist and in the evening by Mrs. Matthews and Miss Wilson. The Sunday School Children at the afternoon service contributed an interesting programme of recitations, readings, prayers and essays. Mrs. J. G. Davies, Comber, conducted the evening service which was greatly enjoyed by the large congregation present.. To all of the many friends of the mission who by their presence at our services. by gifts of any kind and by their musical help coniributed to the success of the Harvest Festival we tender our sincere thanks. W.E.

Crumlin.

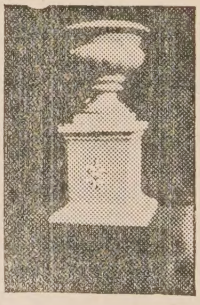
The Harvest Services on 30th September were conducted by the Rev. J. H. Ewbank, B.A., B.D., of Mountpottinger, whose ministrations were very acceptable to the congregations. The attendances might have been larger if the weather had been kinder. The very small band of decorators had done their work as well as ever to make the Church look nice for the day's celebrations.

Moneyrea.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday and Monday evening, 7th and 8th October, when the church was beautifully decorated for the occasion with flowers, fruit and vegetables by the ladies of the congregation, assisted by the gentlemen, all of whom were very kindly entertained to tea by Mrs. Hugh Frame on Saturday evening.

Rev. John McCleery, B.A., the newly-ordained minister of Newry, conducted the morning and evening services on Sunday, and his sermons were very appropriate and highly appreciated. Rev. J. D. Davies officiated at the Monday evening service. The attendance at all the services was considerably above the average, and the singing of the well-known harvest hymns was hearty and inspiring. The choir, duettist and soloist, trained by Miss Doyle, the organist, gave a very good account of themselves. The anthems this year were: "O Thou, who hearest prayer," and "Thou visitest the earth."

The annual social of the Dramatic Society, arranged by Miss R. Kennedy, Mr. W. Maxwell, and members of the society, was held on Friday evening, October 12th, and was attended by a very large number of friends. The function was a great success, and the organisers deserve great credit.



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